

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 19, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and considered. Applicants acknowledge the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over JP355-142235. Importantly, Applicants are grateful for the allowance of Claims 11-20, and for the indicated allowability of Claims 4 and 8-10 if rewritten in independent form.

In order to place this application in condition for allowance, Applicants have folded the allowable limitation of Claim 4 into independent Claim 1, thus amending independent Claim 1. Claim 4 has therefore been canceled.

Since allowable Claim 4 depended direct from independent Claim 1, independent Claim 1 amended as such has the same limitations and the same scope as allowable Claim 4 rewritten in independent form. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 amended as such is therefore allowable. Accordingly too, dependent Claims 2-3 and 5-10 which depend from Claim 1 as amended, are therefore also allowable, thus placing this application in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application with allowed Claims 11-20 and with amended Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are therefore respectfully requested.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment, however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney (or agent) hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Tallam I. Nguti, at Telephone Number 585-423-2477, Rochester, New York.

Respectfully submitted,

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